# REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLERK

For The Year Ended December 31, 2006



## CRIT LUALLEN AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLERK

### For The Year Ended December 31, 2006

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Montgomery County Clerk's audit for the year ended December 31, 2006. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

#### **Financial Condition:**

Excess fees decreased by \$36,669 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$111,664 as of December 31, 2006. Revenues increased by \$481,171 from the prior year and expenditures increased by \$517,840.

#### **Debt Obligation:**

The County Clerk's office is committed to a lease agreement with a balance of \$85,500 as of December 31, 2006.

#### **Report Comment:**

• The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

#### **Deposits:**

The County Clerk's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.

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## CRIT LUALLEN AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable B. D. Wilson, Jr., Montgomery County Judge/Executive Honorable Judy Long Witt, Montgomery County Clerk Members of the Montgomery County Fiscal Court

#### Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees regulatory basis of the County Clerk of Montgomery County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2006. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Clerk. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Clerk's office prepares the financial statement on a regulatory basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees of the County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2006, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, we have also issued our report dated February 14, 2007, on our consideration of the County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with <u>Government Auditing</u> Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.





The Honorable B. D. Wilson, Jr., Montgomery County Judge/Executive Honorable Judy Long Witt, Montgomery County Clerk Members of the Montgomery County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

• The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the County Clerk and Fiscal Court of Montgomery County, Kentucky, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

Crit Luallen

Auditor of Public Accounts

February 14, 2007

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUDY LONG WITT, COUNTY CLERK STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

#### For The Year Ended December 31, 2006

#### Revenues

State Fees For Services		\$ 14,502
Fiscal Court		80,721
Licenses and Taxes:		
Motor Vehicle-		
Licenses and Transfers	\$ 717,096	
Usage Tax	3,444,489	
Tangible Personal Property Tax	1,788,025	
Lien Fees	7,723	
Notary Fees	12,877	
Other-		
Marriage Licenses	9,315	
Deed Transfer Tax	88,656	
Delinquent Tax	620,912	6,689,093
Fees Collected for Services:		
Recordings-		
Deeds, Easements, and Contracts	52,560	
Real Estate Mortgages	58,558	
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements	84,279	
Powers of Attorney	1,840	
All Other Recordings	18,367	
Charges for Other Services-		
Candidate Filing Fees	1,800	
Copywork	12,968	
Postage	1,481	231,853
Interest Earned		 1,265
Total Revenues		7,017,434

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

#### JUDY LONG WITT, COUNTY CLERK

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS For The Year Ended December 31, 2006 (Continued)

#### **Expenditures**

Payments to State:			
Motor Vehicle-			
Licenses and Transfers	\$	520,724	
Usage Tax		3,341,235	
Tangible Personal Property Tax		653,032	
Licenses, Taxes, and Fees-			
Delinquent Tax		77,991	
Legal Process Tax		39,323	\$ 4,632,305
Payments to Fiscal Court:			
Tangible Personal Property Tax		155,697	
Delinquent Tax		43,735	
Deed Transfer Tax		84,223	
Tax Bill Preparation		1,860	285,515
•	-		,
Payments to Other Districts:			
Tangible Personal Property Tax		907,847	
Delinquent Tax		347,528	1,255,375
•			
Payments to Sheriff			4,191
Payments to County Attorney			93,242
Operating Expenditures and Capital Outlay:			
Personnel Services-			
Deputies' Salaries		388,628	
Employee Benefits-		,	
Employer's Share Social Security		26,387	
Employer's Share Retirement		46,441	
Employer's Paid Health Insurance		60,786	
Materials and Supplies-		,	
Office Supplies		1,286	
Other Charges-		,	
Conventions and Travel		3,270	
Dues		800	
Postage		230	
Miscellaneous		241	
Capital Outlay-		211	
Office Equipment		1,180	529,249

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

#### JUDY LONG WITT, COUNTY CLERK

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS For The Year Ended December 31, 2006 (Continued)

#### Expenditures (Continued)

Debt Service:		
Lease Purchase - Computer Equipment	\$ 24,697	
Total Expenditures		\$ 6,824,574
Net Revenues		192,860
Less: Statutory Maximum		74,294
Excess Fees		118,566
Less: Expense Allowance	3,600	
Training Incentive Benefit	 3,302	 6,902
Excess Fees Due County for 2006		111,664
Payment to Fiscal Court - February 13, 2007		 111,664
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit		\$ 0

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2006

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of revenues over expenditures to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

#### B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the County Clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the County Clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, revenues and expenditures are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31, that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2006 services
- Reimbursements for 2006 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2006

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

#### C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

MONTGOMERY COUNTY NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT December 31, 2006 (Continued)

#### Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plan that covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members.

Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 10.98 percent for the first six months and 13.19 percent for the last six months of the year.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report which is a matter of public record. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

#### Note 3. Deposits

The County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the County Clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

#### Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the County Clerk's deposits may not be returned. The County Clerk does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of December 31, 2006, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

#### Note 4. Lease

The office of the County Clerk was committed to a lease agreement with Software Management for computer equipment and maintenance. The original 60-month agreement was amended in August 2006 and requires a monthly payment of \$2,250 to be completed on March 15, 2010. The total balance of the agreement was \$85,500 as of December 31, 2006.



REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



## CRIT LUALLEN AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Honorable B. D. Wilson, Jr., Montgomery County Judge/Executive Honorable Judy Long Witt, Montgomery County Clerk Members of the Montgomery County Fiscal Court

> Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the Montgomery County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2006, and have issued our report thereon dated February 14, 2007. The County Clerk's financial statement is prepared in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

#### **Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Montgomery County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Montgomery County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Montgomery County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with the regulatory basis of accounting which is a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statement that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control over financial reporting. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying comment and recommendation to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

• The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards (Continued)

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statement will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we do not believe that the significant deficiency described above is a material weakness.

#### **Compliance And Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Montgomery County Clerk's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2006, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Kentucky Governor's Office for Local Development and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

Crit Luallen

**Auditor of Public Accounts** 

February 14, 2007



#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUDY LONG WITT, COUNTY CLERK COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Year Ended December 31, 2006

#### INTERNAL CONTROL - SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY

The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

The County Clerk's office lacks adequate segregation of duties for receipts and disbursements. The employee who records cash receipts also prepares the deposits and completes the bank reconciliations. Good internal controls dictate that the same employee should not handle, record, and reconcile cash receipts. If these duties cannot be segregated, we recommend the County Clerk implement compensating controls such as the County Clerk recounting and agreeing the daily deposits to daily tax reports, agreeing daily deposits to the receipts ledger, and reviewing the monthly bank reconciliations. We recommend the County Clerk review office procedures to address this control deficiency.

County Clerk's Response: None.